

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04128 261050Z
ACTION IO-13

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INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15 COME-00 BIB-01 ABF-01
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7681

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU
SUBJ: ITU AND UNDP: RETENTION OF ITU REGIONAL EXPERTS
FUNDED BY UNDP

1. IN DISCUSSION OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE COMMITTEE 3
(TECHNICAL COOPERATION) OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL,
A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE
DISAPPEARANCE OF UNDP FUNDING THAT IN THE PAST HAS
SUPPORTED REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS. PRIOR
TO RECENT UNDP FUNDING PROBLEMS, THERE WERE A TOTAL
OF TEN REGIONAL EXPERTS IN ASIA, EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST,
AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA. INTERVENTIONS IN COMMITTEE
3 OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXPRESSED VERY SERIOUS
CONCERN THAT THE VALUABLE SERVICES OF REGIONAL EXPERTS
ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THERE HAVE
BEEN SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS THAT REGIONAL EXPERTS BE FUNDED
FROM UNION'S REGULAR BUDGET.

2. EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ARE
REPRESENTED ON UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. IT HAS BEEN
SUGGESTED IN COMMITTEE 3 THAT THOSE MEMBERS WHOSE
COUNTRIES ALSO SIT ON UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL URGE THEIR
COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVES ON UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL TO
STRESS THE HIGH PRIORITY THAT THEY PLACE ON TELECOMMUNICA-
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 04128 261050Z

TIONS AND THE ADOPTION OF ALL REASONABLE MEASURES TO
ENSURE THE RENEWED FUNDING OF REGIONAL EXPERTS.

3. THE DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBLE USE OF ITU REGULAR
BUDGET FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS ONLY IN ITS BEGINNING
STAGE AT THIS SESSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. IT IS
TO BE EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSED IN

FUTURE COUNCIL SESSIONS IN YEARS PRIOR TO THE NEXT
PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE AND THAT PRESSURES FOR USE OF
THE REGULAR BUDGET WILL INCREASE. (THE NEXT PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD AS EARLY AS 1980.) US REP
BELIEVES THAT ALL POSSIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO
ITU COUNCILLORS TO LOOK TOWARDS UNDP FOR FUNDING OF
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THEREFORE, IT COULD BE HELPFUL
IF U.S. ITU REP COULD TELL COMMITTEE 3 THAT HE HAS
CONSULTED WITH DEPARTMENT AND THAT U.S. REP TO UNDP GOVERNING
COUNCIL IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT GIVING PRIORITY TO
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIELD AND THAT WITHIN THE REALITIES
OF OVERALL UNDP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND AVAILABILITY
TO SEEK FUNDING NECESSARY FOR REGIONAL EXPERTS. COMMITTEE
3 WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL NEXT MONDAY, MAY 30. US
REP WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT REVIEWING THIS REQUEST AND,
IF POSSIBLE, AUTHORIZING STATEMENT SUGGESTED ABOVE.SORENSEN

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